

REMARKS

In the Office Action of November 20, 2003, claims 14-30, 33-37 and 40-52 were allowed. Claims 1-13, 53-55, 58-64 and 68 were rejected as being anticipated or obvious in view of the one or more cited patents. Claims 65, 67 and 69 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten so as to not be dependent from a rejected base claim.

With respect to the claims indicated as being allowable if rewritten, claims 65, 67 and 69 have been rewritten to include the subject matter of the base claim 64 from which each of claims 65, 67 and 69 directly depend. Claim 68 has been amended to depend from amended claim 65. New claims 80 and 81 have been added and are directed to the subject matter of claim 68 except that the new claims depend from rewritten claims 67 and 69, respectively.

With respect to the rejected claims, claims 1-13, 53-55, 58-64 and 68 are cancelled without prejudice to prosecuting such claims in a continuing application.

It is respectfully submitted that the above application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Feb. 13, 2004

By: Gary W. McFarron  
Gary W. McFarron  
Registration No. 27,357  
Cook, Alex, McFarron, Manzo,  
Cummings & Mehler, Ltd.  
200 West Adams St., Suite 2850  
Chicago, IL 60606  
Phone: (312) 236-8500  
Attorneys for Applicants